



City of Helena

Parks and Recreation

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BROOMBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

Broomball is played on ice without using skates. A team tries to shoot a round ball into a net, which is guarded by another team.

1. Each team plays with the following players:

Center (1) may play the full length of the ice both offense and defense.

Offense (1) may only play in the offensive half of the rink, from the center line to the opponent's goal.

Defense (1) may only play in the defensive half of the rink from the center line to their own goal.

Blueliners (2) may only play between the 'blue lines' at the middle of the rink.

Goalie (1) may play anywhere on the ice. He/she is the only player allowed to use their hands, feet, or body to block a shot within the goal crease area.

2. Starting a game is done by a face-off. Broom tips between the centers of each team must be on the ice. **All plays start on the whistle.**
3. Ball is faced off at center ice to start games, after a penalty shot, and start of each period.
4. If a ball travels out of the rink, it will be put into play by the opposing team. Referee will place the ball at the spot where it left the rink and the defensive players must be at least 15 feet from the spot. Once the offensive players begin action the defense may attack.
5. After a goal the opposing team will get possession of the ball at center ice and will put the ball into play on the whistle of the referee.
6. Playing the ball may be done in the following manner.
 - a. **No High-sticking! Brooms cannot be higher than waist high on the follow through and shoulder high on the back swing.**
 - b. Throwing a broom is forbidden.
 - c. Kicking, throwing, holding, or knocking down an opponent's broom for the purpose of keeping it from a player's possession merits a minor penalty.
 - d. Holding an opponent or an opponent's broom with the hand, arm, leg, broom, or otherwise is illegal, **except** that it shall be legal for a player to lift an opponent's broom with their own broom when the opponent is playing or attempting to play the ball. This legal lifting will be momentary and only for the purpose of

- taking possession of the ball or to prevent an opponent from playing the ball and shall not be construed as permitting body checking.
- e. Ball may not be caught or frozen except by the goalie.
 - f. Ball may not be thrown, batted, or kicked to advance it to another player. A player may use his hand or foot to knock down a shot or pass but he is the only one allowed to play the ball from his team until it has been touched by the other team. **Remember an illegal touch in the goal crease area results in a direct shot on the goal.**
 - g. A ball can only be struck when the player has their feet on the ice or is in an upright position. A player may strike the ball off of one foot provided he is an upright position. A player may not strike the ball he is sliding on his knees or knee.
 - h. If a player strikes the ball outside the designated zone, play is stopped and a free indirect pass is awarded to the opposing team. Player forfeits the free pass if he/she tries to advance the ball the ball himself.
 - i. If an illegally batted or kicked ball occurs within 15 feet of the goal area, opposing team shall be awarded a direct shot from 15 feet of the goal with **only the goalie guarding the goal; all other players must be behind placement of the ball.** Live play continues on the shot.
7. Icing will be called on balls shot from behind the center line that travel beyond the goal line, without touching another offensive player first, unless an offensive player is the first player to make first contact with the ball. The referee has the discretion to wave off the icing call if he views it as a deliberate attempt to stall. Face-offs will be placed on the opposite ends from which the icing takes place.
8. Goalkeeping
- a. Goalie can play the ball in any direction or manner with feet, body, hands or broom **as long as the ball hits within 15 feet of the goal crease area.**
 - b. Only the goalie can pick up, throw, cover, or trap the ball with his hands, **but must be within the goal crease.**
 - c. In clearing the ball – the goalie must clear the ball within a reasonable amount of time, once the other team clears the crease area, in any direction they wish provided **it strikes the ice within 15 feet of the goal crease.**
 - d. Goalies must wear a **helmet and face mask**
9. All players must wear helmets. Elbow pads and shin guards are recommended. Footwear may be anything that does not have cleats or metal grippers or any foreign substance attached to them.
10. Time outs may be called only when a team has possession of the ball. (Two per game).
11. Substitutions may be made at anytime of the game. Player being substituted for; only has to come off the ice, and the sub may go on. Play does not have to stop except when switching goalies.
12. Goals:
- a. Goals are counted if the ball completely crosses the goal line.
 - b. Ball must cross the goal line before time expires.
 - c. Goals are not counted if:

1. Player making the shot slides into the goalie whether before or after the shot,
2. A foul is committed,
3. If any offensive player is in the crease,
4. If the ball was hit by anything other than the broom (except off of a offensive or defensive player),
5. Ball is played by a broom above waist high.

13. Penalties:

Minor penalty

- a. No player can throw their broom at the ball.
- b. No holding the opponent or broom.

Major Penalty

- c. **No charging, roughing, elbowing, pushing from behind, cross checking, kneeing, pushing, tripping, or slashing with the broom, butt ending, tripping with leg or foot, or in a sliding body block.**

Game Misconduct

- d. No fighting, slugging, kicking, or even the attempt to do so.

Major Penalty

- e. No foul or abusive language.

MAJOR PENALTY PLUS PENALTY SHOT

- a. No sliding from behind to try to break up an offensive rush.
- b. No sliding or diving and striking the ball.

Game Misconduct

- c. **No alcoholic beverages or tobacco.** Any team member at the rink or on the ice found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave the rink. This will be at the discretion of the referee.

Major Penalty

Raising the stick higher than waist high on follow through and shoulder high on back swing. *The referee at his discretion may choose to issue a minor penalty if he deems the high stick as inadvertent.

- d. Throwing the broom at an opponent.

MINOR PENALTY

- a. Throwing, kicking, and knocking down an opponent's broom for the purpose of keeping it from him.
- b. Any plays where as the official deems unsafe he may (at his discretion) penalize the offending player with a minor penalty and increase any penalties specified in the rules, especially when offenses are repeated.
- c. **Unsportsmanlike behavior such as arguing, abusive language, or any such action that disrupts the referee or other team from playing the game may result in either a major or minor penalty at the referee's discretion. Continued misconduct may result in removal from the game as well as suspension from the game.**

Minor penalties shall be for 2 minutes during which time no substitution is allowed and the position of the offending player is a position that must play short. Exception – goalie must remove center.

Major Penalties shall be 4 minutes during which no time substitution is allowed as in the minor penalty.

Game Misconduct shall be the removal of said player for the rest of the game. On second offense player is disqualified for remainder of season.

Penalty Shots – The fouled player will take a penalty shot from 15 feet in front of the goal, unless injured or illness, **with no interference from the defending team except by the goalie**. The player must stand stationary and must contact the ball only once. Player will have 5 seconds from the whistle to shoot the ball.

14. All players will be required to sign waiver sheets prior to playing.
15. Games will be (4) 10 minute quarters, with teams allowed five minutes between halves and one minute between quarters. Teams will switch sides at half.
16. **Rule Clarification** – if a goalie leaves the crease and becomes an offensive player, the goalie must be the only player to reenter the crease area. Changes may not be made with the goalie unless done by going straight to the bench. Play must stop on any goalie exchange with a player currently on the ice.
17. Protest: There are two types of protests.
 - A. Misinterpretation of playing rules.
 - B. Ineligible Player (see rules 2, 16, 17, 18)